

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A display device structure, comprising:
  - a substrate;
  - an electrically conductive and optically transparent layer over the substrate;
  - an aluminum layer over the electrically conductive and optically transparent layer; and
  - a metallic protective layer over the aluminum layer.
2. The display device structure of Claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive and optically transparent layer is made of indium tin oxide.
3. The display device structure of Claim 1, wherein the protective layer is made of a material selected from the group consisting of chromium, chrome alloys, nickel and cobalt.
4. The display device structure of Claim 1, wherein the protective layer is made of chromium, and has substantially no pinholes.
5. The display device structure of Claim 1, further comprising a barrier layer between the layer of electrically conductive and optically transparent material and the aluminum layer.
6. The display device structure of Claim 1, wherein the substrate forms part of a faceplate for a flat panel display.
7. The display device structure of Claim 1, wherein the layer of electrically conductive and optically transparent material has a thickness of between about 2000 and 5000 Å.
8. The display device structure of Claim 1, wherein the aluminum layer has a thickness of between about 3000 and 10,000 Å.
9. The display device structure of Claim 1, wherein the protective layer has a thickness of between about 500 and 5000 Å.